

THE NUTFIELD 300TH



SELF-GUIDED HISTORY TOUR
DERRY LONDONDERRY WINDHAM
1719 – 2019
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nutfield 300th Anniversary History Tour

DERRY

LONDONDERRY

WINDHAM

Derry Founder's Weekend, April 12 - 14, 2019

Windham Celebration, May 31 to June 2, 2019

Derry Celebration, July 4 and September 14, 2019

Londonderry Celebration, August 13-18, 2019

Introduction

This history tour was created to educate and inform families in the three principle towns that once were part of Nutfield, namely Derry, Londonderry, and Windham. We have tried to pick out some of the oldest historical highlights from these three towns which you can visit in the present day. We hope you will use this tour booklet during the summer of 2019 to visit some of these historical and interesting locations. This is not meant as a complete Nutfield history, but an educational and fun activity. You will need a car to visit these locations and children should be supervised. You can use your cell phone or GPS to find the locations. We have given you addresses or directions in this tour. Please respect people's private property and their privacy. Enjoy the Past!

The Tour Booklet is separated into three distinct sections: Derry, Londonderry, and Windham. You may begin your journey in any town and in any number order, just follow the maps to the numbered tour site.

Early Nutfield History

The Native People, the earliest inhabitants of Nutfield, were the Indians of the Pawtucket nation who inhabited the area around the Merrimack River in Lowell, MA and their domain included all of

New Hampshire. In the early days, Indians used to camp on the shores of Cobbett's Pond and Canobie Lake (then called Policy Pond). (1)

In 1718, a large group of Scottish emigrants sailed to the New World seeking religious freedom. They landed in Boston in August 1718. Some of this group sailed further north to Casco Bay (now Portland, ME) and passed the winter there, returning south to Haverhill, MA in the spring of 1719. They had heard of a large tract of land north of Haverhill called "Chestnut Country," so named for its large numbers of chestnut trees. This tract of land came to be called Nutfield. The men in the group left their families in Haverhill to go and examine the parcel of land, which was twelve miles square. They decided to accept this grant of land from the State of Massachusetts.

The men constructed temporary huts in Nutfield and returned to Haverhill for their families and possessions. Reverend James MacGregor was the pastor of this group and after spending time in Dracut, MA, he joined the Nutfield settlers. On April 12, 1719, he preached the first sermon in Nutfield near the shore of Beaver Lake to the new community of almost 100 people. By September of 1719, five months after the first settlement, there were seventy families in Nutfield, and one month later, there were a total of one hundred and five families. (2)

On December 25, 1719, seven representative men of the Nutfield settlement who were chosen to manage public affairs, decided to reward the earliest settlers for their courage and diligent efforts in occupying the new territory. By this plan, each of the 20 earliest male settlers was given a parcel of land approximately 60 acres in size. Some leaders of the community were given larger parcels and preference was also given to those who would build mills and helped with the administration of the settlement.

The parcels were laid out in parallel narrow strips along both the north and south sides of West Running Brook. This area became known as the "Double Range." The narrow strips of land enabled the settlers to build their cabins close together all along the ends of the parcels. Over the subsequent years, other ranges were created to assign parcels of land in Nutfield to the continuing influx of new settlers. Other ranges included the English Range (now located in Derry), the Windham Range, the Aikens Range (now Derry Village), the Eayers Range (now west Derry) and the High Range (now located in Londonderry). The settlement continued to grow and prosper. On June 21, 1722, they successfully petitioned the General Court of New Hampshire and became incorporated as the town of Londonderry. (3)

Historical Places in Derry

1. First Parish Church (47 East Derry Rd.)

At a public meeting, on June 3, 1720, it was voted that a small house be built “convenient for the inhabitants to meet for the worship of God.” The location of the first meeting house was determined at another meeting on June 29. Work on construction of the building was not started until 1722. This house of worship was used for nearly 50 years until an even larger and more imposing structure was built slightly to the south in 1769. The building was again enlarged in 1822, remodeled in 1845, and renovated in 1884. It is still used as the First Church of Derry while extensive renovations are underway today. (3)



from Willey's Book of Nutfield



Back of First Parish Church before renovation



NH Historical Sign on the front field

2. Forest Hill Cemetery (behind First Parish Church)

Located behind the First Parish Church in East Derry, the Forest Hill Cemetery encompasses 35 acres and contains over 10,000 burials. The earliest graves date back to 1722. Forest Hill is Derry's only cemetery and is still actively used today. The First Settlers are interred here as well as many of their descendants. The main road into the cemetery is named, "First Settler's Street." Rev. James MacGregor and his wife, Mary Ann MacGregor are both buried here along with members of other founding families, such as Cargills, Dinsmores, Morrisons and Nesmiths. (4)



Early Mill Sites

The first settlers were quick to build a number of mills in Nutfield. A very valuable asset in these early towns was water rights. Grist mills were built near a running water source, which provided the settlers with ground corn and wheat. The sawmills provided lumber for buildings.

3. Cargill Grist Mill (Corner of Beaver Lake Rd. and North Shore Rd)

One of the first mills was a gristmill for grinding corn, built in 1720 by Captain David Cargill at the northeastern side of Beaver Pond. This mill was in operation until 1828. The mill is gone, but a millstone now marks the historical site at the corner of Beaver Lake Rd and North Shore Rd. (5)



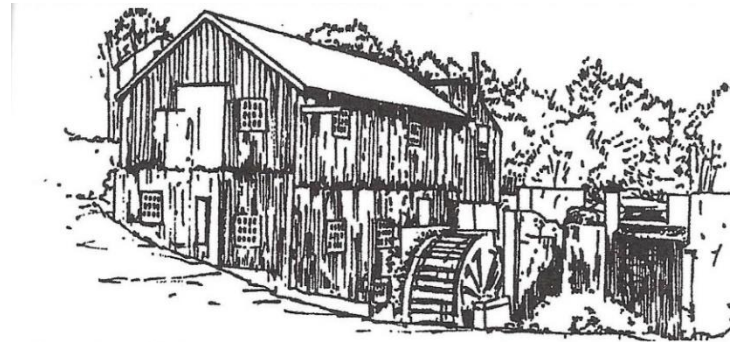
4. Gregg Grist Mill (Intersection of Thornton St. and East Derry Rd., near the Derry Traffic Circle)

The site of another gristmill built in 1722 is on Thornton St. at the intersection of East Derry Rd. It was originally owned by the Gregg family and later by Lando Hardy and was used to grind corn, wheat and other grains. It was razed during the Depression and part of the foundation is now a small park near the Derry traffic circle. (8)



5. Taylor Saw Mill (242 Island Pond Rd.)

The Taylor Mill State Historic Site is also located in Derry on Island Pond Rd. The original land was bought, and mill built in 1799 by Robert Taylor. The current mill was built in 1805 and is still operable today. It is an “up and down” mill which is a vertical mechanized version of a manual sawing action. The site is open to visitors on many weekends in the summer. (6) Check online at NH State Parks.

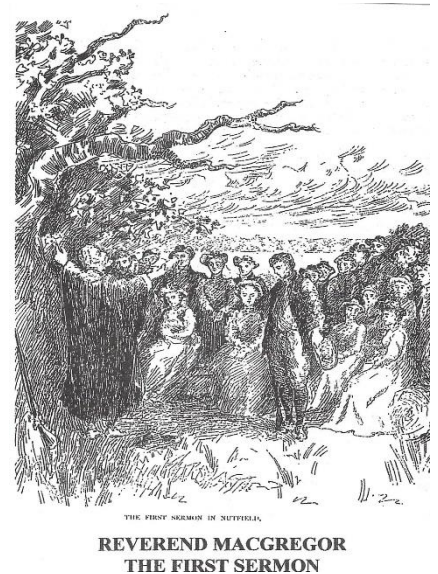


Taylor Mill, 1805
Typical of a 17th century up and down saw mill

6. First Sermon Site (near Cargill Grist Mill site)

The first sermon by Rev. James MacGregor was preached to the Nutfield settlers under an oak tree near the shore of Beaver Pond on April 12, 1719. Rev. MacGregor preached from a passage in the Old Testament, Isaiah 32:2 to almost 100 people. The settlers organized themselves into a church and society, modeled after the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. In May 1719, after religious services, Rev MacGregor was officially received as the pastor of the Nutfield settlement. He continued in this role until his death in 1729.

The location of the first Sermon was near the Cargill Grist Mill site and was at one time marked with a cairn (small pile of stones) but this marker has since been removed. (1)



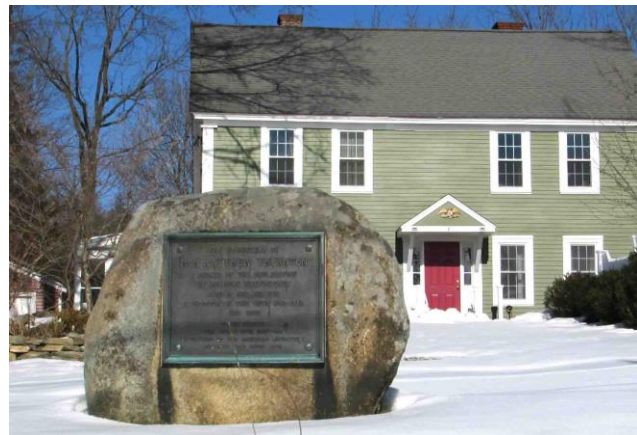
7. Rev James MacGregor House, circa 1725 (50 North Shore Rd.)

Reverend James MacGregor was chosen as the first pastor of Nutfield. He was born in Europe in 1677 and immigrated with the early settlers to New Hampshire. He was a Presbyterian pastor and also a natural leader in civic affairs. He was married to Mary Ann Cargill before they left Ireland. Together they had seven children. Reverend MacGregor died at age fifty-two in 1729 and is buried with his wife in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Derry. One of his sons later became the pastor of the First Parish Church. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this home from the street.) (2)



8. Matthew Thornton House, circa 1737 (2 Thornton St.)

Matthew Thornton was born in Ireland in 1713. His family immigrated to North America when he was three years old and they lived in Maine and Massachusetts. Matthew Thornton became a surgeon and established a medical practice in Derry, NH. In 1760, he married Hannah Jack and together they had five children. He became President of the NH House of Representatives, an Associate Justice of the Superior Court of NH, and served in the NH State Senate. He is a signer of the Declaration of Independence. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this home from the street.) (7)



9. Potato Field (near Fairway Apartments on Rt 28 By-Pass)

The potato originated in South America, and was carried to Europe by Spanish explorers in the 16th century. After potato cultivation spread through Europe, the Scotch-Irish settlers of Nutfield introduced the potato to North America. The first year that the settlers arrived in Nutfield, they planted seed potatoes that they had brought with them from Europe. They planted the potatoes and flax in a Common Field, near what is now the Fairway Apartments, bordering on West Running Brook in Derry. This is the first place where potatoes were grown in North America. This sign is no longer standing. (7) (9)

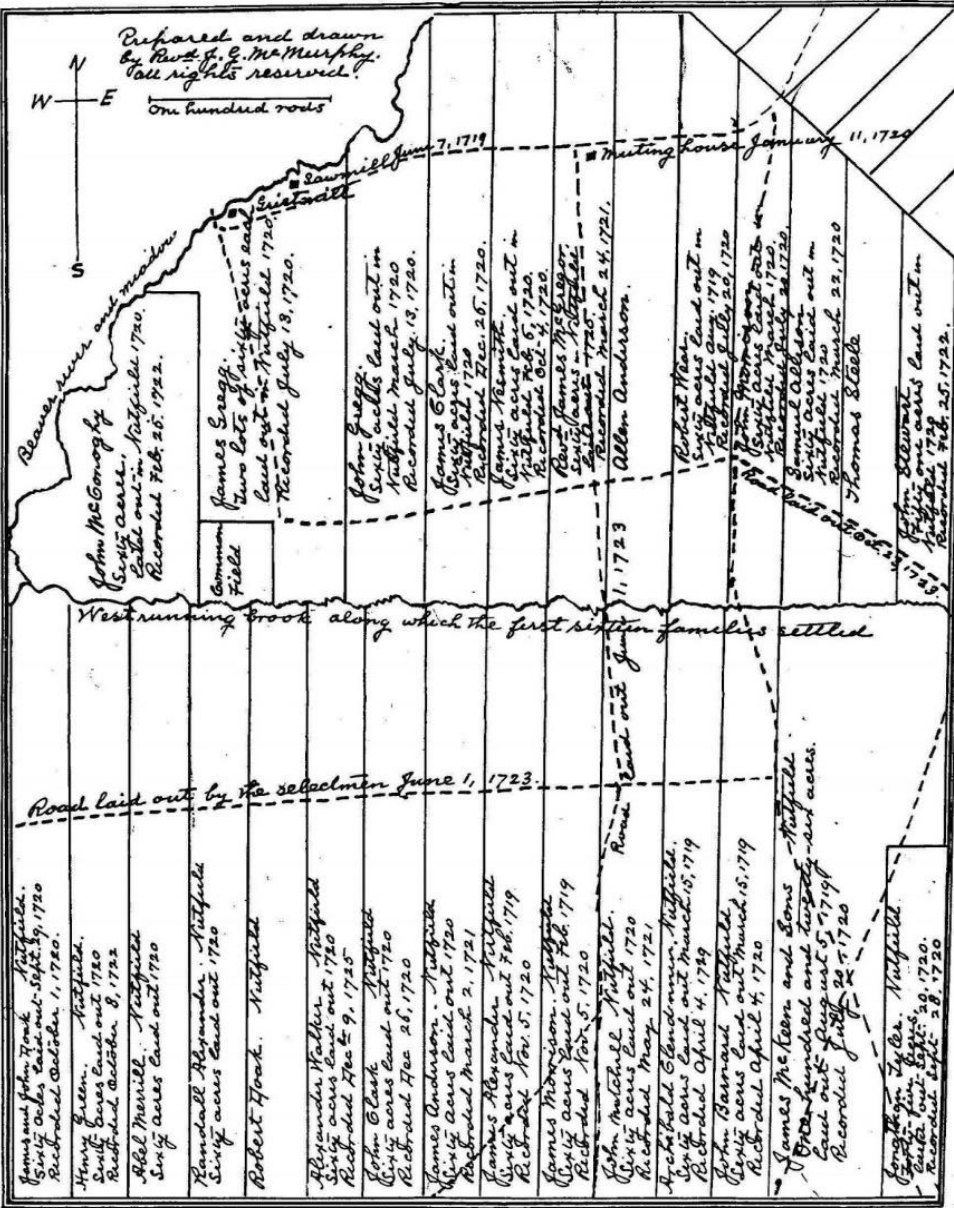


10. James Gregg Homestead, circa 1730 (49 South Main St, Rt 28 By-Pass)

This house was built by James Gregg, one of the original Nutfield settlers. He is supposed to have built a log home on this site in 1719 and then erected this structure in 1730. The house has been much enlarged and is now used as the Circle of Friends Preschool and Daycare. The home stands near the West Running Brook (at the bottom of the hill south of the home). The early Nutfield settlers divided the land in house lots of 60 acres each. This house is located on one of the original lots in an area called the Double Range. (Note: This is now a school. Please do not trespass, but just view this house from the street.) (9)



The First Grant of land in Nutfield in 1719



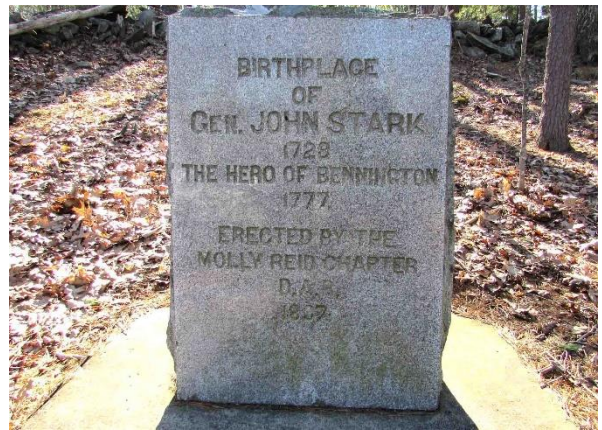
11. General John Stark

Marker (Rt 28-south of Lawrence Rd)

Stone Marker (corner of Lawrence and Stark Roads)

John Stark was born in Derry, New Hampshire in 1728. He was a NH native who served as an officer in the British Army during the French and Indian War. He later served as Major General in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. He was nicknamed the “Hero of Bennington” for his service during the Battle of Bennington in 1777. General Stark is credited with the phrase, “Live free or die: Death is not the worst of evils.”

There is a historic marker for General Stark on the east side of Rt 28, just south of intersection with Lawrence Rd in Derry. There is also a stone marker at his birthplace at the intersection of Lawrence Rd and Stark Rd in Derry. General Stark died in 1822 and is buried in Stark Cemetery in Manchester, NH. (7) (10)



12. Clendenin Farm, circa 1736 (30 Goodhue Rd.)

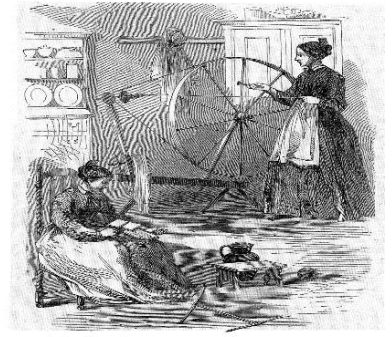
Archibald Clendenin was one of the first settlers of Nutfield. He was among seven representative men in Nutfield chosen by the settlers to manage public affairs. He served as a constable, surveyor, and fence viewer, and he participated in other town committees.

The stone house on Goodhue Rd. was part of the original land granted to Archibald Clendenin by the town of Nutfield. It is a rare house because it is one of the only early stone houses left standing in the area. The architecture of the house is reminiscent of the stone houses built in Scotland in this same era. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this home from the street.) (11) (12)



13. Montgomery Homestead (129 Fordway Ext.)

The early settlers brought with them the art of weaving linen of superior quality and as soon as possible they started cultivating flax for the production of linen cloth. Many homes had spinning wheels for creating linen thread which was then woven into cloth. A seal was created so that all linen cloth from the Nutfield area could be stamped to prove that it was "Londonderry Linen." The seal has since been lost, but there are historic garments that exist today (such as shirts worn by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson) which bear the stamp of the Londonderry weavers. John Montgomery came to Nutfield in 1747 and established himself as a weaver of fine linen. His home still stands on Fordway. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this home from the street.) (2)



A nineteenth-century engraving depicting an early eighteenth-century home, some similar to what would have been found in the homes of early settlers. From History of Windham in New Hampshire (Rockingham County), 1719-1883.



14. Derry Museum of History (located in the basement of the Adams Memorial Opera House at 29 W. Broadway)

The Derry Museum of History is a great spot to end your tour of Derry. It contains artifacts and stories from the early days of Nutfield and the town of Derry. It is run by the Derry Heritage Commission and is open every Sunday from 1-5PM, except holidays. (10)



Historical Places in Londonderry

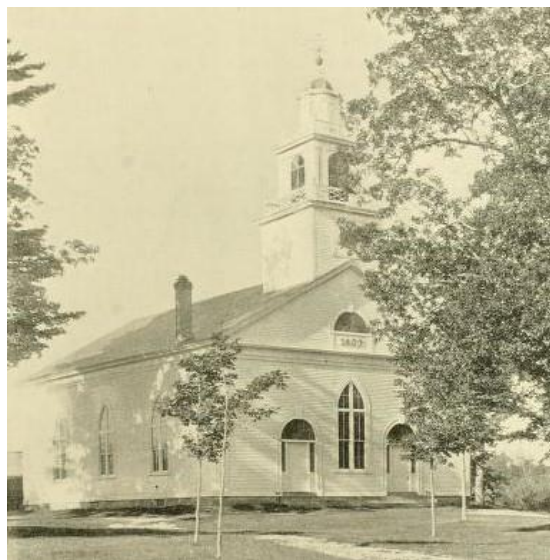
1. The Common (corner of Rt 128 and Pillsbury Rd,)

The Londonderry Common has been and continues to be the site of many public gatherings. On the Commons is a Civil War Monument dedicated in 1893 to the first Londonderry citizen to enlist in the Civil War. His name was Wesley Knight and he died as a prisoner in South Carolina during the war. The Commons sits across the road from the Presbyterian Church, the old Meetinghouse /Town Hall (moved here from its original site), the Londonderry Grange No. 44 and the Methodist Church. The old Meetinghouse/Town Hall has been enlarged and used for various governmental and social purposes over the years. The Lions Club has leased the building since 1972. (13)



2. The Presbyterian Church (128 Pillsbury Rd.)

The Londonderry Presbyterian Church was founded in 1735 by the Reverend David MacGregor and is believed to be one of the oldest on-going congregations in New England. Worshipers in Londonderry began their services shortly after Nutfield was founded in 1719. They built the current structure in 1837 at a cost of \$4000. Famous members of the Londonderry Presbyterian Church have included General George Reid, General John Stark and his wife Molly Stark, and the parents and grandparents of Horace Greeley. (2) (13)



From History of Nutfield



2019

Morrison House Museum Complex (140 Pillsbury Rd.)

The Londonderry Historical Society owns and operates the Morrison House Museum. A house, barn, blacksmith's shop and carriage shed have all been re-located to this property which was a gift to the town from the Mack family. Another home, originally located on Gilcrest Rd, is currently being stored on the museum property waiting to be reassembled. (Check the Londonderry Historical Society website for dates that the property and museum are open to the public.) (14)



3. Morrison House, circa 1760

The Morrison house originally was built in 1760 and was located on Rockingham Rd. The Morrison family were among the first settlers of Nutfield. Their home was moved to the museum property in 1989 and is fully restored as an example of an 18th century farmhouse as it would have appeared in the 19th century. The house has a large center chimney fireplace with beehive oven, interior shutters and wide pine floors. The house contains artifacts and displays including items relating to linen production for which Londonderry was famous. A snippet of the wedding dress of "Ocean Born Mary," a child born during the sea voyage from Ireland to Londonderry, is on display in the Morrison house. (14)



4. Parmenter Barn (circa 1859) and Carriage Shed

The Parmenter dairy barn is a post and beam structure, originally built in 1859 on High Range Rd in Londonderry. It is the last barn in Londonderry to be assembled through the community barn-raising method. In 1998, it was moved to the museum property in pieces and re-assembled. Today it houses some of the Historical Society collections. (14)

In 2013, a carriage shed from Litchfield Rd was moved to the museum property, re-assembled and attached to the Parmenter barn. The shed will house some of the early modes of transportation including a one-horse carriage, a racing sulky and a sleigh. (14)



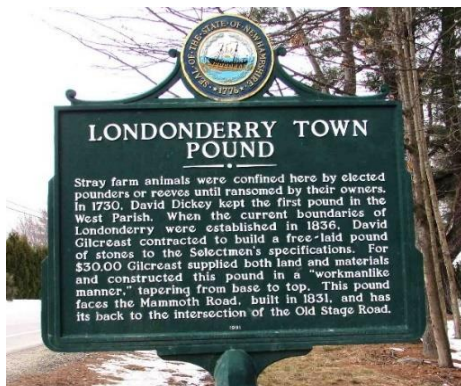
5. Clark Blacksmith Shop (circa 1840)

The Clark Blacksmith Shop was built in 1840 and was originally located on the Stonehenge Farm in Londonderry. It was moved to this museum site in 1998 and restored to be an example of a 19th century trade shop. The shop contains many tools and iron objects which were routinely used in rural New Hampshire. Shops such as this made hinges, horseshoes, nails and other hardware. (14)



6. Town Pound (Rt 128, north of the fire station)

New England Towns created a Town Pound as a central holding place for stray livestock. The structure was usually built of four low walls made of fieldstone or rough cut granite and had a door or gate. Any stray livestock found wandering in town was brought to the town pound. In order to reclaim a pig or cow, the owner had to pay a fine. The Londonderry Pound is currently located on the east side of Rt 128, north of the fire station. (15)



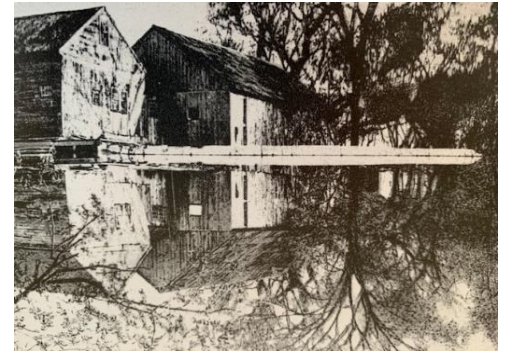
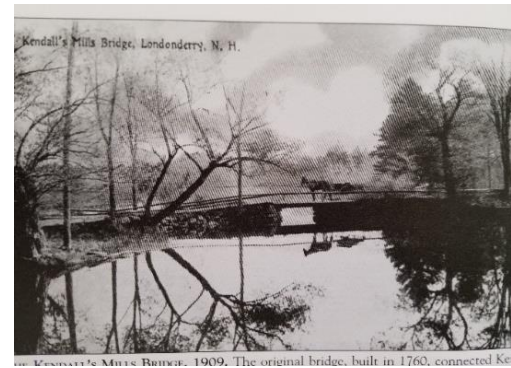
7. Mack's Home and Orchard (230 Mammoth Rd.)

The Mack family homestead was known as "The Glenwoods" and was built by Robert Mack. He was the grandson of John and Isabella Mack who came to Nutfield from Londonderry, Ireland in 1732. The family settled here and raised various crops and cattle. They entered the business of growing apples and created Moose Hill Orchards. The Mack family still resides in their ancestral home. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this home from the street.) The farm store and ice cream stand next to the house are open during the year and make a good family stop during your tour. (13)



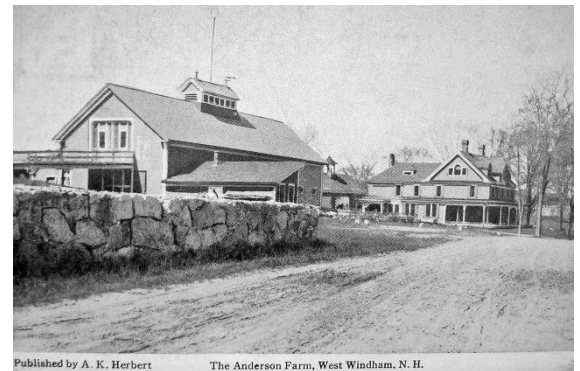
8. Kendall Pond Mills (intersection of Kendall Pond Rd. and South Rd.)

Kendall Pond is located near the western border of Windham and Londonderry. It was a site in Nutfield of several mills over the years which supplied the early settlers with the necessities of life (for example, grain ground into flour and trees sawed into lumber for buildings). In 1731, rights to establish a mill at Kendall Pond were granted to Benjamin Wilson, who built the first mill at this location. By 1760 a dam had been constructed and a bridge spanned the pond. Over the years, mills at this location ground grain, sawed logs, and pressed apples. Miller owners at this location included the families Goss, Moor, and Kendall. Kendall Pond also provided ice in the winter which was cut in blocks and stored in sawdust for use in warm weather to keep food from spoiling. Today, Kendall Pond remains, but there are no remaining mill structures at this location. (13)



9. The Anderson Farm (corner of Mammoth Rd and Bockes Rd.)

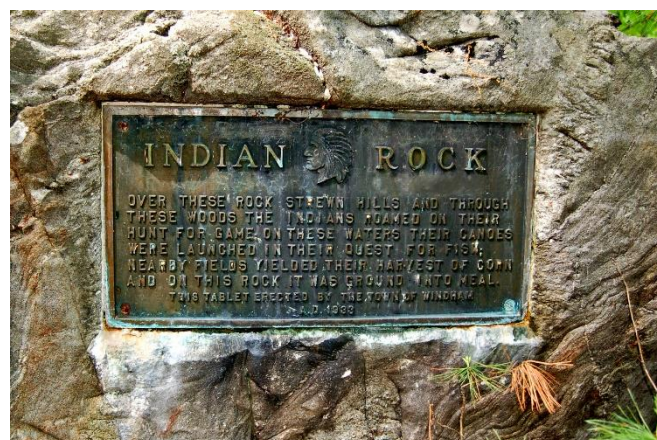
In 1720, Samuel Anderson built a home on the corner of Mammoth Rd. and Bockes Rd. The family lived in this location for many generations. They ran a large farm and may have used their water rights on Beaver Brook to run a mill. On the other side of Mammoth Rd., opposite the house, is a marker naming past occupant of the family farm including Samuel, David, Frank and William H. Anderson. (13)



Historical Places in Windham

1. Indian Rock (north side of Enterprise Dr, west of Letizio Enterprises)

Indian Rock is a large rock in the woods just off the north side of Enterprise Dr. It is about five feet high and several feet wide and has a hollow spot at the top. Legend says that the Pawtucket Indians used this hollow spot to grind their corn into flour. Evidence of their camps can still be found on the shores of Cobbett's Pond and Canobie Lake in the form of stone tools and arrow tips. Many of the Indians had moved farther north to the Concord area by the time Nutfield was founded. Be careful as you approach the rock as there are poison ivy plants and ticks. (16)



The Windham Range

The Windham Range was laid out in 1728. Some 1200 acres were divided into 20 parcels which were long and narrow parallel strips, and each parcel ran from Cobbett's Pond to Policy Pond (now Canobie Lake). Range Road today runs approximately down the center of the original parcels. See the map that follows. It was drawn by Rev J.S. McMurphy for use in Willey's book on Nutfield published in 1895. (3)

The parcels were given to the early Nutfield settlers, according to their standing or position in the community. Some settlers who received land on the Windham Range were compensated because felt they had not received a fair share of land in the Double Range in Derry. Rev. James McGregor, the first pastor of Nutfield, received the first parcel (thought to be the "best" parcel) at the northern most location or "Head" of the Windham Range. (3)

Today as you drive down Range Road, many of the homes and property boundaries are very different from the original way the Windham Range was laid out. Only a few houses today are original to the land grants made in 1728. What follows are some highlights to note on your drive.



The view from Indian Rock Rd. to Cobbetts Pond

Cobbets Pond
also called
Cabbage Pond.

John Barr
One hundred and fifty acres
Recorded July 31st 1725

Samuel Allison
Eighty acres
Recorded July 31st 1725

Policy Pond
now called
Candie Lake

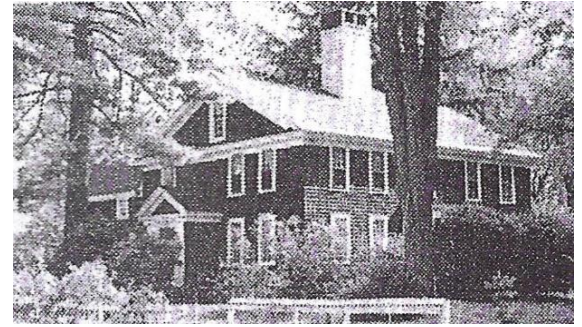
Map of Range
at Policy Pond
in Londonderry
prepared & drawn
by Rev. J. S. McMurphy
all rights reserved

one hundred rods.
0 25 50 75 100

One hundred rolls.

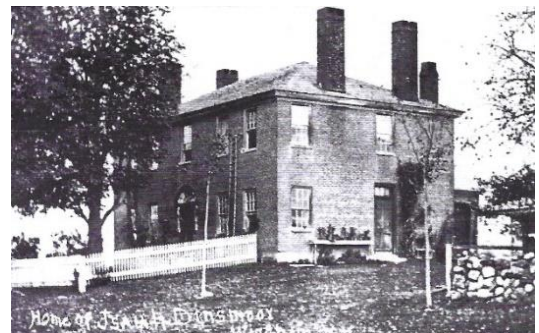
2. L.A. Morrison House, circa 1728 (inside Searles Wall) unable to view- see photo

This land was the Head of the Windham Range. It was originally granted to Rev. James McGregor who first occupied the original house in 1728. Deacon Samuel Morrison bought the parcel in 1749. The property remained in the Morrison family until 1900. L.A. Morrison, author of "History of Windham in New Hampshire" lived there. Edward Searles bought the house and land in 1900 and did extensive remodeling to the house. Today the house is on a private road inside the Searles' castle walls. Please do not try to visit this location as the area is undergoing renovation and is not accessible. (1) (17)



3. Thomas Morrison House, circa 1729 (59 Range Rd.)

This house, presently The Windham Restaurant, was built in 1812. The original occupant of the farm, Capt. Thomas Morrison, was one of Windham's first settlers located on the Range. His farm was on land laid out to his father, John Morrison, in 1729. Thomas probably settled as early as 1735. He sold his land in 1743 to Francis Smiley. After Smiley's death in 1763, the farm was sold to the Park family. Andrew Park was living on the farm until his death in 1820. The present brick house was built in 1812 by Colonel Alexander Park, whose son ran a blacksmith shop at the location. In 1857, the property was purchased by Isaiah Dinsmoor and his family lived there until 1901. At that time, the new owner completed extensive renovations and changed the roof to the current mansard style. (1), (17), (20).



Today, this building has been converted into a restaurant.



4. Thom/Dinsmoor Farm, circa 1743 (95 Range Rd.)

This house is on land originally granted to William Humphrey in 1728. William Thom, who came to Londonderry from Scotland, purchased the land from Humphrey and built the homestead there around 1743. The property stayed in the Thom family until 1830 when it was sold by Isaac Thom to John Dinsmoor Jr. In 1834, John and Rev. Jacob Abbot both drowned when their boat sank in Cobbetts Pond, leaving the farm to his wife and one year-old son, Joseph. When Joseph grew up, he turned the farm into a productive orchard and vineyard. In 1884, Joseph built himself a new home across from the original homestead on the northern half of the property, called Lakeview Farm. The original homestead was given to Joseph W. Dinsmoor Jr. The property remained in the Dinsmoor family until 1935. (17), (20).

(Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this home from the street.)



5. Highland View Farm, circa 1753 (101 Range Rd.)

This land was part of the original Windham Range grant in 1728. In December 1738, John Barr sold his grant of 50 acres to James Gilmore. It is believed that this house was built in 1753 by Deacon Gain Armor, the son-in-law of James Gilmore. In 1884, the property was purchased by George W. Johnson and has remained in the Johnson family ever since. The Johnsons ran a dairy farm, and they used their home as a boarding house for summer visitors in the early 1900s. Today, it is the last operating farm in Windham and offers fresh produce and ice cream to the public in the summer. This is a good place to stop on your tour of the Windham Range. (17), (20).



6. Haseltine Farm, circa 1780 (112 Range Rd.)

This land was part of the original Windham Range grant in 1728. It is thought to be the lot of land laid out to John Barnett. In 1780 the house and property was purchased from the Jameson family by Phillip Haseltine (who moved to Windham from Haverhill) at a cost of 2,061 Spanish dollars. The Haseltine family lived here for several generations until 1952. Today the farm house is preserved and used as the office of a small business. (Note: This is a business. Please do not trespass, but just view this building from the street.) (1), (20).



7. Senter Farm, circa 1749 (134 Range Rd.)

This land was part of the original Windham Range grant in 1728. William Nickells deeded his grant of 41 acres on the 17th day of October 1739 to Halbert Morisson who in turn sold this land to John Christy in 1749. Capt. John Christy built the house upon this land. In 1785 Asa Senter bought the farm bought the farm from Moses Christy, son of John. Benjamin Franklin Senter, son of Asa, spent his life upon the farm until his death in 1881. It was known for years as the Senter Farm and the area was called "Senter Hill." In 1917, the farm was bought by the Austin family who owned the property until 1963. While they owned the home, it was remodeled and used to house actors who came to Windham in the summers to perform at the Windham Playhouse. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this building from the street.) (1), (16), (Rockingham County Deeds)



8. Lt. Joseph Smith House, circa 1773 (150 Range Rd)

Lt. Joseph Smith built this house c 1773 on land he purchased from Arthur Darrah in 1772. This land was part of the original Windham Range grant. It remained in the Smith family until 1903. In 1917, it was sold to the Austin family and the barn was converted to a theater, known as The Windham Playhouse. Famous actors of the time, such as Betty Davis, Lee Marvin and Rod Steiger, performed here to crowds of 300 people. The theater was open for eleven years, 1946-1957. (Note: This is a private home. Please do not trespass, but just view this building from the street.) (1) (16)



9. Copp's Hill (near Cemetery on the Hill)

Settlers built their first settlement here. The first house built in Windham, circa 1721, was constructed by John Waddell near the Cemetery on the Hill. However, not even the cellar hole exists today. (19)

10. Cemetery on the Hill (Range Rd.)

The second burial location in Windham was located on Range Rd. The first meeting house for Windham was located in this spot, within sight of Cobbett's Pond. The settlers started burying their dead near the meeting house and continued to do so even after the early meeting house building was moved to Salem in 1798 where it still stands on Main St. Reverend Simon Williams is buried here on the Hill beneath the spot where he preached in the meeting house, and Samuel Senter is buried beneath what had been his pew in the old church. Many of the oldest families in Windham are buried in this cemetery including the Dinsmores, Smiths, and Morisons. (1)



11. Cemetery on Plain (old section) (Ministerial Rd.)

The first burial in Windham was that of David Gregg, the eight-year-old son of William and Elizabeth Gregg, who died on March 6, 1749. He was laid alone in a small area of town and this established the first graveyard in Windham. A special town meeting set aside the one acre of land where young Gregg was buried as the town's first "burying place." Prior to this, deceased settlers of Windham were buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Derry. This oldest cemetery in Windham now contains the graves of some of its oldest citizens, including the Campbells, Clydes, and Armstrongs and Bettons. (1)



12. Windham Town Hall circa 1798 (3 North Lowell Rd. - Center of Town)

The current center of Windham contains several buildings of note. The second meeting house (now the Windham Town Hall) is located here. It was built in 1798 after the first meeting house was moved to Salem. As people began to establish farms in many parts of the community, pressure mounted to have a more central location for the meeting house than the former Range Rd. location. In 1792, a survey was completed to find the exact center of Windham. Soon afterwards, the new meeting house was built at that central location. In 1865, the building was turned 90 degrees to its present position. It was extensively remodeled in 1868 to contain upper and lower halls, a library and selectmen's room. (17)



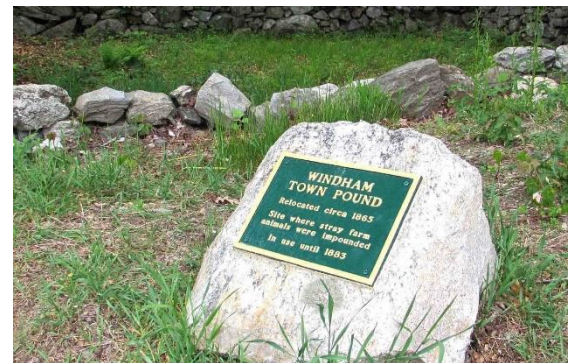
13. Armstrong Memorial Building, 1898 (3 North Lowell Rd. - next to Town Hall)

The Armstrong Memorial Building was dedicated in 1899 and was a gift to the town of Windham from George Washington Armstrong for housing the town library. The fieldstone building was designed by William Dinsmoor. The library collection, created by Col. Thomas Nesmith in 1871, had previously been housed in a room set aside for this purpose in the Town Hall. When the Armstrong Building opened, the Nesmith Library was moved to that location. The library remained there until a new larger library building was built on Fellows Rd. in 1997. The Armstrong Building now contains the Windham Museum and the Windham Cable TV offices. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation, authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and is overseen by the National Park Services. (17)



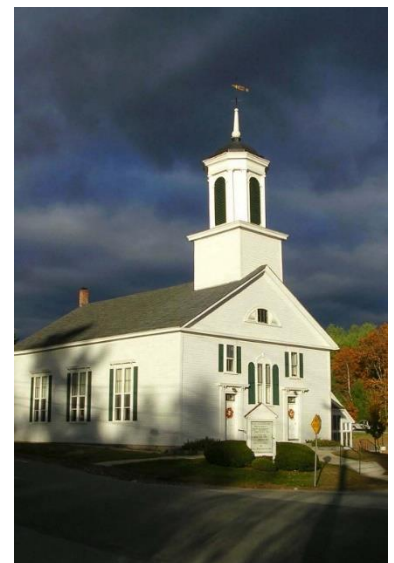
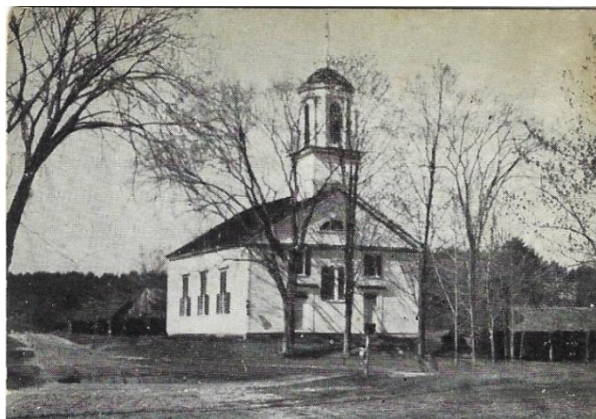
14. Windham Town Pound (3 North Lowell Rd.)

The settlers of Windham voted in 1760 to establish a town pound. It was to be built of stone, forty square feet in size, with a roof and gate of "high quality." The town pound was a location to keep animals found wandering within the town and whose ownership was uncertain. It was originally located at the corner of Rt111 and North Lowell Road. Later it was moved to the location north of the old Firehouse on North Lowell Road. It stands there today as a "representative of an obsolete law, as a memento of a period long gone by, and of a custom never followed." (19)



15. Windham Presbyterian Church (1 Church Rd.)

The Windham Presbyterian Church was built in 1834, when it became necessary to separate worship and government functions (which had formerly both taken place in the "meeting house.") It is an excellent example of the Federal style and contains a bell tower, which has recently been restored. The church has been in continuous use to the present day, with some additions for offices and classrooms. (17)



16. Dinsmoor – Hopkins Cellar Hole, circa 1723, (Rail Trail Parking Lot - starting point)

John Hopkins married Elizabeth Dinsmoor in Ireland and with their children, James and Margaret, they immigrated to Nutfield in 1730. John was given 60 acres of land (today located in the northeastern part of Windham near the Derry line). On this land he built a stone house, similar to the houses of the time in Ireland and Scotland. Today, the stone house is gone, but the cellar hole is visible. To reach this location, park at the Rail Trail parking lot on Depot Road in Windham. Walk past the Windham Depot train station on the paved path, and bear left before the metal gate onto the old dirt Worcester, Nashua, and Portland Railroad Line bed – now the Rockingham Recreational Trail. Walk about 15 minutes down the trail. The historic site will be on the left, but there is no sign or marker. There are remains of a house and barn foundation. There is also a small tunnel under the RR bed which was added in the 1800s. The stone chamber is a go-through for the farm animals to pass from barn to pasture. On the right side of the RR bed is the old Hopkins Road. Enjoy your walk and you can stop at The Kitchen at Windham Junction for a snack afterwards.



Picture by Martha - Bill – ancestor



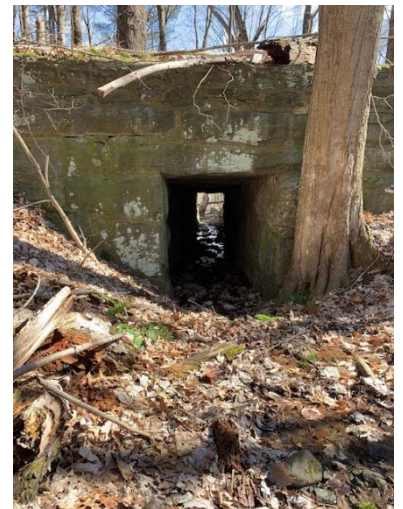
Hopkins Road



Foundation Stones & Henri



Stone Pass-Through Chamber



Tunnel Under RR Bed

Early Mill Sites

17. Campbell Mill, (corner of Mammoth Rd. and Anderson Rd.)

The first saw mill in Windham was built by Henry Campbell in 1750 on Beaver Brook in the western part of town. Mills such as this were very important to the early settlers as sawn lumber enabled them to build larger homes and structures such as barns from boards, planks and timbers. Earlier homes had to be built from logs and were much smaller. The mill continued to be owned by the Campbell family for several generations. Later another mill called the Burnham mill was built near the Campbell mill site. There is no evidence of the Campbell mill structure today, but it was located near a three story stone house that is today at the corner of Anderson Rd. and Mammoth Rd. Other sawmills were built in Windham in the late 1700's by Butler, Tufts, Wilson and Anderson, but there are no remains today of these structures. (1)



Dam and Grist Mill



Dam and Mill West Windham, NH

18. Senter Mill, (corner of Lowell Rd. and Golden Brook Rd.)

The first grant to use the outflow of Cobbett's Pond was given to Samuel Senter and he built a grist and sawmill in 1790 along Golden Brook. Today, near the corner of Lowell Rd. and Golden Brook Rd., the mill pond and remains of the dam can still be seen in the woods. Later mills at this same location were owned by the Fessenden and Neal families. (1)



19. Simpson's Mill, (at Moekel Pond)

Joseph Simpson built a grist mill and sawmill in the southern part of Windham near Simpson's Pond (called Moekel Pond) in 1788-89. (1) The dam at Simpson's mill site failed in 2010 and the pond drained. There is currently a community effort to build a new dam and restore the pond. This site is not accessible.

RESOURCES

- 1) History of Windham in NH, 1719-1883, L.A. Morrison, copyright 1975.
- (2) A Second Glimpse of Derry, 1719-1997, copyright 1998.
- (3) Willey's Book of Nutfield, George F. Willey, copyright 1895.
- (4) The History of New Hampshire, Jeremy Belknap, published 1784, 1831.
- (5) Historical Marker at Cargill Gristmill Site, placed the DAR, Derry, NH.
- (6) NH State Parks website.
- (7) Wikipedia.
- (8) Images of America – Derry, William F. Dugan and Richard Holmes, copyright 1995.
- (9) Images of America – Derry Revisited, Richard Holmes and William Dugan, copyright 2005.
- (10) Derry Museum of History, 29 W. Broadway, Derry, NH.
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- (12) Windham Places, Brad Dinsmore, www.windhamnhhistory.org
- (13) Images of America – Londonderry, Londonderry Historical Society, copyright 2004.
- (14) Londonderry Historical Society website. www.londonderryhistory.org
- (15) Atlas of New England, on wordpress.com website.
- (16) Historic Tales of Windham, Derek Saffie, copyright 2016. www.windhamnhhistory.com
- (17) Images of Windham, Bradford Dinsmore, copyright 2003.
- (18) The History of Londonderry, Comprising the Town of Derry and Londonderry NH, Edward L. Parker, copyright 1851.
- (19) 250th Windham Anniversary Celebration, Windham Historical Commission, 1992
- (20) NH Division of Historical Resources

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ENJOY YOUR HISTORY TOUR. WE ENJOYED PREPARING THIS BOOKLET FOR YOU.

Susan Azibert
Diane Farmer
Joan Normington